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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,264	06/30/2004	Wayne Tseng	VIAP0115USA	4263
27765	7590	07/21/2006	EXAMINER	
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION			BAE, JI H	
P.O. BOX 506			ART UNIT	
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			PAPER NUMBER	
			2115	

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/710,264	TSENG, WAYNE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ji H. Bae	2115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6-30-2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7-1-2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has repeatedly used the phrase “aligning data transmitting timing of a plurality of lanes” in both the specification and claims [claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 21-24, and 26-28]. From applicant’s disclosure, it is apparent that the applicant’s intent is to provide a system and method that mitigates the effects of differences in transmission times along parallel data paths (“lanes”, per applicant’s terminology) by selectively adjusting and delaying the time at which the data arrives – e.g. “aligning” the data at the receiver. However, the meaning of the phrase “aligning data transmitting timing of a plurality of lanes” is unclear, and may be interpreted to mean something else entirely. For example, “aligning data transmitting timing of a plurality of lanes” may be read to mean “aligning data **that transmits timing information for** a plurality of lanes”. Additionally, the examiner notes that the data is what is being aligned, with the transmission time being adjusted in order to align the data.

Based on applicant’s disclosure, the examiner recommends amending all instances of the phrase to read as “aligning the data at a receiver by adjusting the transmission time for a plurality of lanes”, or something similar.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schanke et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0228429 A1.

Regarding claim 24, Schanke teaches a method comprising:

transmitting a plurality of test data sets on each lane; and

aligning the data transmitting timing of each lane according to a transmitting status of a test data set on each lane [paragraphs 0008, 0014, 0095-0097].

Regarding claim 25, Schanke teaches that the test data set comprises a plurality of COM symbols and a plurality of SKP symbols [paragraph 0086].

Regarding claim 26, Schanke teaches that the data is aligned according to the number of COM symbols and the number of SKP symbols within each lane.

Regarding claim 27, Schanke teaches that when the last COM symbol within the data sets is detected, aligning the data of each lane by the number of COM symbols and the number of SKP symbols.

Regarding claim 28, Schanke teaches determining an offset value of each lane according to the test data sets; and

aligning the data of each lane by said offset value [adjusted for the missing skip symbol, paragraph 0095].

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Regarding claim 29, Schanke teaches determining the amount of delay applied to each lane by an offset value.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Lau et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,578,092 B1;

Sato et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,359,815 B1;

Mitchell et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0024926 A1;

Renaud et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0141661 A1;

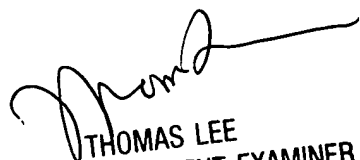
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ji H. Bae whose telephone number is 571-272-7181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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